



Presbytery of Charlotte

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January 31, 2012

*To Ruling Elders, Teaching Elders, Christian Educators, and others who will attend the Presbytery of Charlotte meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Hopewell Presbyterian Church
From Sam Roberson, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk*

I begin by thanking all of you for supporting my Sabbatical during the autumn of 2011. The Sabbatical time was restorative for my prayer life, physical health, perspective on the past and present, and hopeful future expectations. Again, thank you.

We gather as the Presbytery of Charlotte at historic Hopewell Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at one of the most challenging times in recent PCUSA memory. I cannot remember a time when the Holy Spirit has been more active in many strong and outreaching ways, and some of our churches have been in lock-down mode, anxious, angry, and focused narrowly. In a different time and a different Republican Party, the old Presbytery of Mecklenburg was sometimes referred to as the Republican Party at prayer. Today, regardless of your political affiliation, the divisive and often destructive politics of the culture are too often reflected in our local congregations. I pray that Jesus will lead us through these times in the gospel ways of peace, justice, forgiveness, and love.

The Presbytery meeting will focus on where your Council believes the Presbytery is being called by the Spirit. Council Moderator Robert Austell and I will bring a short message during worship which will include Communion and the naming of those who have joined the Church Triumphant. An early, working lunch will feature three workshops plus a conversation area for those simply seeking friendly table discussions.

The afternoon will feature a sharing by our 29 African-American Churches as to how they are being called to transformation as they meet the demands and opportunities of these times. They began this new journey with an all day "Summit" on October 15, 2011. Finally, we will spend 20 minutes at the February meeting and the May meeting asking questions to our Presbytery's Moderator Candidate Robert Austell. If he's going to answer the questions of the General Assembly in Pittsburgh this summer, he needs a healthy warming up by our Presbytery.

We will, of course, have to work in some necessary business such as the Annual Meeting of the Corporation; however, we plan to begin at 9:30 AM and be on way home by 2:00 PM. I pray it will be a good day to be a Presbyterian!

*The 113th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Saturday, February 11, 2012
The Docket*

*Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Meal tickets may be purchased until 11:00 AM. Cost ~ \$8.00.
Meals for children attending Child Care ~ \$2.00*

Orientation for New Elders/Commissioners will be conducted in the Chapel behind the Sanctuary, by Sam Roberson, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Presbytery Meeting Convenes at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer 2012 Moderator, Elder Janie Beaver

Welcome by Host Church Rev. Allan Purtill, Jr., Pastor, Hopewell Presbyterian Church

*Special Presentation from the NC Presbyterian Historical Society in Honor of the 250th Anniversary of
Hopewell Presbyterian Church*

Welcoming of elders attending Presbytery for the first time, corresponding members, and visitors.

Approval of the Docket

Appointment of Belinda Rice and William Pride to record attendance

*Appointment of Tellers: Ministers and Elders from Amity, H.O. Graham, New Friendship,
Norwood First and Third Churches*

A Word from the Moderator

Report of the Stated Clerk and Omnibus Motion: Sam Roberson

****Worship***

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN

LITANY OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SPECIAL MUSIC The Hopewell Presbyterian Church Choir

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON / REFLECTION Rev. Sam Roberson and Rev. Robert Austell

THE LORD'S SUPPER

READING OF THE NECROLOGY

HYMN

Responding to the Word and Doing the Work of the Church

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Luke Maybry

Enrollment as Inquirers: Hillary Bergman (Quail Hollow) and Frank Spencer (Selwyn Avenue)

Inquirers to Candidates: Inger Manchester (Charlotte Covenant) and Patricia Lowe (Grier Heights)

Examination for Ordination: Thomas Winstead (Sardis)

Announcements

Special Announcement /Blessing of the Meal

*Rev. DC Horne, Moderator of the Presbytery's
Hunger Action Work Group / At-Risk Youth*

**Lunch & Learn (11:30 - 12:35 pm - See flyer for details)*

Presbytery Meeting reconvenes at 12:40 pm in the Sanctuary

Announcement 2012 PCUSA National Multicultural Conference

Rev. Chris Carrasco

Reflections on the "Order of the Day" Event Held October 15, 2011 at Ben Salem PC

Council Report

Rev. Robert Austell

Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte, Incorporated

Committee on Ministry

Kitty Bohr and Samuel Reid, Co-Moderators

Communicating actions taken by COM on behalf of Presbytery

Transfers/Receiving New Members

Rev. Jay Smith

R. Steve Rembert, Pastor-Elect, Walkersville Presbyterian Church

George Slaton, Honorably Retired

Ellen Gardner, Interim Pastor, Bethpage-Kannapolis Presbyterian Church

Tom Winstead, Evangelist, Pending Ordination

Nominating Committee Report

Rev. Lee Koontz

**Q & A with Rev. Robert Austell*

Candidate for Moderator of the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA

The 113th Stated Meeting is adjourned and closed with prayer

**Denotes "Order of the Day"*

Note: When you want to speak on the floor of Presbytery, please go to a microphone, wait to be recognized by the Moderator, identify yourself and the church you represent, and address the Moderator.

*Child Care: Child care during Presbytery meetings is gladly provided as an expression of our baptismal vows to support the children of the church and their families. Arrangements for child care can be made by calling Tamara Williams at the Presbytery Office at 980-207-5212. **To arrange child care, please call a week in advance of the Presbytery meeting so that proper preparations can be made.***

**114th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte*

Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 10:00 AM

Derita Presbyterian Church

113th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte
“Lunch & Learn” Workshop Opportunities
(From 11:30—12:30)

Immigrant Ministry: Opportunities to Create a New Church”

LOWER LEVEL OF EDUCATION BUILDING

Leaders: Rev. Veronica Cannon & Rev. Carol Hassell

This workshop will introduce participants to opportunities to join Christ in reaching out to strangers (Immigrants/Refugees) who are new to the United States. It will share strategies, models and opportunities for congregation and clusters of congregations to provide become nesting ministries for mission and outreach. It will provide working models and discuss how the Immigrant Workgroup wants to come along side congregations to help resource this ministry.

“Challenges for Christians in Iraq” - ROOM A-12 (Admin. Bldg)

Speaker: Dr. Mazen Alsaqa

International Peacemaker Dr. Mazen Alsaqa from the Mosul Presbyterian Church, Mosul, Iraq, will address peace and justice issues in his presentation. While in Iraq, he was associated with the Assembly of Presbyterian Churches in Iraq, a partner church of the Presbyterian Churches in the USA (PCUSA).

Alsaqa was born in Mosul, Iraq (old Nineveh), where he served as youth leader, assistant lay pastor, and doctor in the church clinic. Following the kidnapping and murder of his father, Alsaqa fled to Jordan. In 2009 he was granted refugee status and currently resides in Michigan where he is completing requirements to practice medicine in the USA. He is interested in the meaning of being Christian and the effects of persecution on faith and church. Better understanding for concerns around the world translates into a better understanding of the issues in our own communities.

“Domestic Violence – In My Church?” - ROOM F-12 (Family Life)

Speaker: Carol DeLoach Lewis

This workshop will present a resource tool, Continuum of Christian Care for Adult Victims of Domestic Violence (DV) for pastors and lay leaders with minimal or no training in domestic violence to help adult victims connect to appropriate resources in their community.

Participants will be presented a scenario, given the one page domestic violence resource tool to determine how it may help them help the victim to safety, and then participants will be asked to provide their feedback on this tool. Discussion will follow and participants will leave with this resource tool to use in their church.



**ALL MINISTERS ARE
ASKED TO PICK UP
THEIR
2012 PRESBYTERY
IDENTIFICATION CARDS
AT THE
REGISTRATION TABLE**

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Report to the Presbytery of Charlotte
February 2012**

Candidates for Ministry (17)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Home Church</u>	<u>Seminary</u>
April Joseph Bright	C.N. Jenkins	J.C. Smith (ITC) (grad)
Ashley Cheek	Myers Park	Union-PS, Charlotte
Nick Cheek	Myers Park	Union-PS, Charlotte
Phill Eason	Myers Park	Princeton
Nadine Ellsworth-Moran	Sharon	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
Leslie Fuller	South Mecklenburg	Columbia
Diane Hunter	Sardis	Columbia (grad)
Deidra Jennings	New Hampton	Union-PS, Richmond (grad)
**Patricia Lowe	Grier Heights	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
**Inger Manchester	Covenant Charlotte	Union-PS, Charlotte
Marie McCanless	Providence	Louisville (grad)
Katherine Mealor	Myers Park	Columbia (grad)
Jane Mitchell	Cook's Memorial	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
Elizabeth Sigmon	Rocky River	Union-PS, Charlotte
Danette Osbourne-Smart	Matthews-Murkland	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
Mary Margaret Porter	First, Charlotte	Duke, Union-PS (grad)
*Tom Winstead	Sardis	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)

*Ordination pending Presbytery vote

**Candidacy pending Presbytery vote

Inquirers (26)

<u>Inquirer</u>	<u>Home Church</u>	<u>Seminary</u>
Thomas Agbemenou	Sugaw Creek	Union-PS, Charlotte
Sharon Altenburg	Matthews-Murkland	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
*Hillary Bergman	Quail Hollow	
Douglas Clark-Brown	Davidson College PC	Vanderbilt
Ruschella Cunningham	Davidson PC	J.C. Smith, Atlanta (grad)
Will Davis	Myers Park	Union-PS, Charlotte
Donna Fair	First United	Union-PS, Charlotte
Farrar Griggs	First, Kannapolis	Gordon Conwell, Charlotte
Martha Gamble Hall	C.N. Jenkins	Union-PS, Charlotte
LaDonna Harrison	Smallwood	Union-PS, Charlotte
Phanta Lansden	C.N. Jenkins	Union-PS, Charlotte
Christopher Lee	Paw Creek	Union-PS, Charlotte
Song Hee Lee	Korean First	Columbia
Brian Maher	Rocky River	Union-PS, Charlotte (grad)
Lisa McLennan	Selwyn Avenue	Union-PS, Charlotte
Mark Moss	Bethel	Union-PS, Charlotte
Loc Nguyen	Sugaw Creek	Gordon Conwell, Charlotte
Patricia Reid	McClintock	Union-PS, Charlotte
Jason Robbins	Sardis	Columbia (grad)
Donna Singletery	C.N. Jenkins	Union-PS, Charlotte
*Frank Spencer	Selwyn Avenue	Union-PS, Charlotte
Nancy Spencer	H.O. Graham	Gordon Conwell, Charlotte
Tim Tate	Huntersville	Union-PS, Charlotte
Daniel Trapp	Myers Park	Union-PS, Charlotte
Liz Wagner	Myers Park	Union-PS, Charlotte
David White	Pleasant Hill	Gordon Conwell, Charlotte

*Enrollment pending Presbytery vote

**Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry
to the Presbytery of Charlotte
February 11, 2012**

For Information:

1. **Since the October Presbytery meeting, 2011 Annual Consultations were sustained for:**

Donna Fair (First United)	Farrar Griggs (First, Kannapolis)
Christopher Lee (Paw Creek)	Katherine Mealor (Myers Park)
Jane Mitchell (Cook's Memorial)	Mary Margaret Porter (First, Charlotte)
Donna Singletary (C.N. Jenkins)	Liz Wagner (Myers Park)
Tom Winstead (Sardis)	

2. **2012 Annual Consultations have been sustained for:**

Song Hee Lee (Korean First)	Mark Moss (Bethel)
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3. **Outstanding 2011 Annual Consultations include:**

Sharon Altenberg (Matthews-Murkland)	Ashley Cheek (Myers Park)
Nicholas Cheek (Myers Park)	Nadine Ellsworth-Moran (Sharon)
LaDonna Harrison (Smallwood)	Deidre Jennings (New Hampton)
Marie McCanless (Providence)	Danette Osborne-Smart (Matthews-Murkland)
Jason Robbins (Sardis)	Elizabeth Sigmon (Rocky River)
Nancy Spencer (H.O. Graham)	Daniel Trapp (Myers Park)
David White (Pleasant Hill)	

4. **Margaret Fulghum (First, Concord)** was ordained at First Concord on December 10, 2011

5. **Carson Overstreet** has been installed at First Presbyterian in Tupelo, MS. She was ordained at Sardis Presbyterian on October 16, 2011.

6. **Veronica Rogers (C.N. Jenkins)** was ordained and installed at Caldwell Memorial on November 13, 2011.

7. **Laetitia Wells (Memorial)** has asked to withdraw from the preparation process. Her request was approved by CPM.

Recommendations:

1. The CPM recommends that the following individuals be enrolled as inquirers in the preparation for ministry process:

Hillary Bergman (Quail Hollow) Frank Spencer (Selwyn Avenue)

2. The CPM recommends that the following individuals be enrolled as candidates in the Presbytery of Charlotte. They have been endorsed by their home church sessions and have been interviewed and approved to be presented for Candidacy by the CPM. They will each offer a statement of calling and the floor will be opened for questions.

Patricia Lowe (Grier Heights) Inger Manchester (Covenant)

3. The CPM recommends that **Tom Winstead (Sardis)** be examined and approved for ordination. Tom has sustained examination in the CPM in the areas of Bible (New and Old Testaments), Theology, Polity, Worship and Sacraments. His faith statement is in your packet. The examination will consist of a statement of calling and a sermon providing an opportunity to ask questions of the candidate following the sermon.

INGER MANCHESTER
A STATEMENT OF PERSONAL FAITH

I believe in the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe that God has created all things out of nothing and continually creates.

I believe God is our great provider and protector.

I believe God takes the initiative in creation and in covenant to restore us to God. We are unable to do this ourselves.

I believe that God, in Jesus Christ, fully entered into our human condition. In an act of self-revelation, redemption and forgiveness Jesus Christ atoned for sin and restored human life for fellowship with God.

I believe that Jesus Christ became flesh and dwelt among us, was crucified, died and was resurrected. As such He lives and rules eternally and He will come again to judge and reign.

I believe that God in Christ is present for us in the Holy Spirit, actively transforming, empowering and sustaining human lives. I believe that it is not by our own understanding that we can believe the Gospel, but that the Holy Spirit draws us toward the true faith.

I believe that all of Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God, witnessing to God's self-revelation. I believe when the Word is proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper are visible signs and seals of God's grace and covenant with us. In these sacraments, God's grace is made known to us in the real presence and power of Christ in the Church and in our lives.

I believe that there is one Church- a fellowship of believers that the Holy Spirit gathers. The gathered community lives under Christ, the Lord and head of the Church.

I believe that in Christ God has claimed us as God's own and has granted us new life in Jesus Christ. Through Him we are both justified and sanctified. Through Him we are made whole.

I believe that we are a people of God meant to glorify and enjoy God forever.

Thomas Winstead

Personal Statement of Faith

My personal belief is based on three essential parts of my journey thus far. First and foremost is the eternal wisdom found in the Holy Scripture, secondly is my own experiences of circumstance and Christian community, and thirdly is the ever present God who is always near, always guiding, and always forgiving, ushering me through a life devoted to God's purpose. Through these elements I have come to believe that there is but one Triune God who is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God uses the scripture, which is the Word of God; to reveal to us the person of Jesus Christ who is the Word made flesh. This Word is recorded in the Bible, which is the written witness to us of God's activity throughout the history of humanity. The Old Testament offers us a history of a living faith and our ancestors' walk with the one true God, as well as the foundational promises of God that would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The Father sent the Son who came and dwelt among us, being both fully human and fully divine. Through suffering the afflictions of this world Christ took upon His back the yoke of humankind and, through the sacrifice of His own body and blood freed all those who would accept Him. It was the resurrection of Jesus Christ after the third day that proclaimed God's victory over death. Through this one man's act of righteousness there is justification and life for all. It is because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the grace of God the Father, not because of any action or decision of our own that our robes are washed clean and all those who come unto Christ shall live eternally in the presence and communion of God. It is through this belief that I accept the gift of Jesus Christ and proclaim Him Lord and Savior, not only of my life, but also of all creation.

I believe that God works actively in our world today guiding us with the grace of God, forgiving us with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and enabling us through the Holy Spirit. It is through this activity that God is able to use our sinful, inadequate lives for God's purposes. Christ's sacrifice, made while knowing our sinfulness completely, proclaims God's grace and love all the more. Knowing the extent of that love and being freed by that sacrifice we are called into lives that recognize God and seek to live as Christ has commanded us, loving and serving the Lord and loving our neighbor. We are therefore called to, desire to and, because of our need to be consistently fed on the word, *need* to take part in the community of believers, the Body of Christ the Church. To take part in the Body is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire world, to aid those who are in need, and to move ever closer in communion with God through study, prayer, and fellowship in a community of faith.

Church Development Committee
Report to Presbytery
February 11, 2012

The Church Development Committee (CDC) continues to be faithful to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ as expressed in the Presbytery-Wide Strategic Plan to Build Healthy Churches. We encourage Council and Committees to review this document adopted at the 101st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte as you seek to aim your mission towards local congregations. CDC is in transition resulting from the rotation of a seasoned chairperson and members. We are seeking stability under the leadership of the temporary chair (Dr. Brenda Leonard – CNJ Church) and a cadre of new committee members.

Congregational Transformation is high on our agenda. We recognize that all 129 churches, including pastors, sessions and congregations, stand in great need of transformation. Some congregations are on the downside of their life cycles; hence, we believe church closures will continue to occur because congregational leadership are unwillingness to make the deep changes necessary for the rebirth of the congregation. Our past two years of learning from the Transformation Pilot Project has shown us the highly resistant nature embedded in pastors, sessions and congregations. It is impossible for our congregations to be transformed by the Power of the Holy Spirit until the Spirit transforms individual hearts and minds. CDC will continue to provide effective transformation models and invite congregations to begin a transformation journey to helping their churches become outward focused centers for Jesus Christ.

We believe the strength and effectiveness of our committee's mission in 2012 will come from the success of workgroups emerging from CDC and the quality of their efforts as they engage ministry at the local (congregational) level. We invite Council members and persons across the presbytery to consider joining Christ with your passion and commitment on one of these workgroups. The CDC wants to staff its workgroups with clergy and laity who have passion and gifts for ministry in particular areas. Work groups are temporary. Members function for 12 months. If you desire, re-up for another six to 12 months. Are you interested in serving God thru work with the presbytery? Do you know of others interested? Send an email to warren.lesane@presbyofcharlotte.org.

Therefore, with fresh energy and renewed passion, we encourage Council and Congregations to discern where God is already at work in the world and join God as we seek to do the same.

New Church/New Ministry Workgroup

- The Fellowship Place (tFp), a Mission that began worship in the Roadway Inn (Wilkinson Blvd) in August 2011, goals have been met. Specific markers were set in the areas of Outreach, Worship, Membership, Stewardship and Discipleship. The mission made contact with an average of 120 people in the Camp Green Neighborhood and fed an average of 400 persons once a month through an outreach called "on the corner." The Mission Pastor works ¾ time and is supported 100% from the tithes of the Mission.
- The workgroup seeks to establish guidelines for the stages of growth that eventually leads to an organized congregation. Guidelines for establishing such will be framed around the question 'What will the presbytery of Charlotte require of those who seek to move from Mission Stage to Fellowship Stage to New Church Development Stage?

Transformation Workgroup

This group was established in April 2011. A change in leadership at the end of 2011 has led to a restart of the group. Currently, leadership is being sought to chair the group. The Rev. Dr. Paul Borden will provide leadership March 21-23, 2012 in helping us to evaluate the congregations involved in the Transformation Pilot Project. The following plans and updates are on our plate for 2012:

- The Presbytery of Charlotte through the CDC was awarded a \$50,000.00 General Assembly Mission Development Transformation Grant November 2011 to support the Transformational Pilot Project in 2012.
- Hickory Grove will receive up to \$25,000 from the General Assembly Mission Development Transformation Grant to help the church implement its transformation prescriptions. These funds are contingent upon the session providing written updates monthly and the ongoing viability of the church and its implementation of the prescriptions.
- Cornerstone Church worshipped for the final time January 8, 2012. The request to establish a commission to dissolve the congregation was made by the Session December 11, 2011 following a congregation meeting. The Stated Clerk has called together a commission to handle all matters related to Cornerstone.
- Cornelius and Derita Churches continue to flourish in transformation with numerical and spiritual growth. Each congregation has grown exponentially and is experiencing a consistent number of visitors to worship.
- St Paul Churches continues in transformation at a reduced level while they seek to create a partnership with Robinson Presbyterian Church.
- New Friendship is seeking to call a pastor with transformation skills sometime in 2012. In the meantime, they continue to work at implementing transformation prescription with emphasis on Stewardship.
- New Dollars/New Partners for Your Sacred Places continues to progress. The first of four gatherings for leadership teams was held at Philadelphia Church October 2011. This gathering taught participants how to develop and present to the larger public a compelling case for who they are (their heritage within a community context), what they have (the state and resources of their physical plant), and what they do (how they use their buildings in service to the community). They were resourced in preparing a targeted case statement to be the foundation for a congregation's capital campaign and new community partnership. The core module laid the groundwork for the other three specialized approaches to capital fund development. The second module will be hosted at Avondale Presbyterian Church on February 18, 2012. Participating churches include Philadelphia, Clanton, Steele Creek, Woodland, and Avondale. Hopewell withdrew.
- Ben Salem Church had several increases in 2011, which involved an increase in Unified Mission Giving, an increase in worship attendance by 50% and the addition of two new worship opportunities (Friday Nite Live and 9:00 AM Sunday Worship), and an increase of more than 500 % in leading 65 persons into a personal relationship with Christ. It has developed healthy partnerships with North Carolina Technical Christian Academy, Bright Hopes Head Start, Communities in Schools at East Mecklenburg, Room-in-the Inn, and with a Child's Place (Teen/Youth Ministry).
- Developing Church Partnerships – We continue to encourage collaborations between Presbyterian churches and others to do ministry. We are seeing glimmers of budding partnerships with Trinity and Ebenezer; Partners in Ministry (PIM) HO Graham, Clanton, McClintock, Woodland, and Mt Olive; Covenant-Charlotte and CN Jenkins; Sardis Presbyterian, Ben Salem and Sardis Baptist; and etc.

Immigrant Ministry Workgroup

- The Immigrant workgroup is working to become effective at resourcing congregations and the presbytery. Outside of Latino/Hispanic Ministries, it has identified opportunities to be in partnership with four immigrant communities, namely, Vietnamese, Togolese, Burmese and Brazilians. Ambassadors have been established to visit and worship with these groups. Sugaw Creek Church is working to become an incubator for immigrant ministries already having Vietnamese and Togolese (French Speaking) communities in their facility.
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- The Latino/Hispanic Steering Committee is currently struggling with a number of critical issues that are being addressed with the guidance of the General Presbyter and key people directly involved. Aligning the work of this Committee to Council's new vision is necessary to move the past model of ministry used from to establish missions and ministries to a more effective model that resources local congregations to reach out to their Latino neighbors. The initial work for developing a strategic plan for Latino Hispanic Ministry has been done, but the plan has not been drafted in writing. The current missions and ministries include Indian Trail Spanish Mission, Cristo Salvador Spanish Mission and Candor Spanish Mission. Charlotte Ministries exists largely to provide English as a Second Language classes in various location and in the support of congregations that have some aspect of ministry to the Latino community.

Order of the Day Workgroup

The newest workgroup is the Order of the Day that is charged with creating and implementing the Calling for the Order of the Day Summit. It will assist African American Congregations to confront the reality of where their churches are and to examine their willingness to participate in the transformation of these congregations in such a way that leadership will surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this goal, it will:

- Teach and encourage pastors, sessions and congregations to make Evangelism the churches number one priority.
- Rededicate itself to the understanding that the primary mission of the Church is to lead others to a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Teach and encourage sessions to tithe 10% of its churches operating budget in support of the Presbytery Unified Mission Giving. This will take some time, hence sessions are urged to make incremental increases in mission giving until a tithe is reached.
- Work to become a model for healthy African American Presbyterian Church development in the Mid-Atlantic Region and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Place before the Presbytery an agenda that affects their communities, churches and concerns for daily living.

Multicultural Ministry

At a time in the life of our denomination when we are experiencing division, a decline in membership, and financial difficulties, it's about time we CELEBRATE our unity in the Body of Christ. The National Multicultural Conference, gathering in our own backyard at the Hilton University from April 26-29, 2012, promises to be a time of inspirational worship, practical workshops, and building bridges and understanding with our sisters and brothers from all ethnicities. This weekend will be a renewing and energizing experience guided by the tenth chapter of Acts.

- Cornelius has a vision. Peter has a vision. Somehow, the Holy Spirit brings these two unlikely people together and a REVELATION occurs. God's door is open to ALL people, who are we to stand in the way? Peter proceeds with baptizing and encountering the Spirit

moving amongst the most unlikely of people. What a message for us today? We will be CHALLENGED by the message, CULTIVATE our understanding and ability to foster multiculturalism, CELEBRATE the amazing gift of our different backgrounds, and be COMMISSIONED to go out reaffirming our baptisms and living out our calls.

- This conference is not only multi-racial, but multi-generational. Complimentary childcare is provided for infants through five years of age. A workshop track is designed just for 6-10 year olds and another one for middle and high school. All worship is family friendly with a special worship area up front designed for our younger disciples. Bring the whole family as together you share this Spirit-filled event.
- What else can you expect? God's Word will be preached through nationally recognized speakers like J. Herbert Nelson, director of the PCUSA Office of Public Witness, Joel Barker, futurist, filmmaker and author, and Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, dean of Esperanza College. During the workshop, or track, opportunities, you have the option of sitting at these leaders feet to learn from them, as well as Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons, former Stated Clerk Clifton Kirkpatrick, nationally known worship leader Bruce Harding, and GMAC staff for Multicultural Support Raafat Girgis. Learn about how to create a multicultural worship experience, how to lead in a multicultural world, the meaning of power of justice today, church models for multicultural ministries and so much more. The possibilities are practically endless.
- So make sure you register early at www.pcusa.org/multicultural or get a form available through Presbytery. This will be one event you don't want to miss. We all need a little challenge, some cultivating, a lot of celebration, and commissioning to fulfill our calling in this world. We all need a time of renewal, inspiration, and Spirit-filled worship. Come and experience the revelation with Peter: God's Door is Open: Who Are We to Stand in the Way?

Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program

Korean First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte is applying to the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program for a loan of \$373,000.00.

- Donald Latham and Warren Lesane met with Elder Won U Jo, Chairman of the Korean First Finance Committee, August 13, 2011 to review the viability of the application. The purposes of the loan are to construct and purchase two larger modular buildings that will replace current smaller modular buildings due to recent and significant church growth; and to consolidate two current church loans at a much lower interest rate. Current loan interest rates are 5% and 7.5% respectively.
- The Church Financial Campaign Service conducted a Capital Campaign. This resulted in the members pledging \$750,000.00 to be paid over three-years. Terms of the new loan are projected to be \$373,000 at 4% for 240 Months. Monthly payments are expected to be \$2,271.00. We note that this congregation did not contribute to the Presbytery's Unified Mission Giving last year. We urged their participation moving forward. The CDC Committee reviewed the loan during its meeting January 5, 2012. Its recommendation is approval of the application, with the inclusion of Korean First providing attendance and financial figures for 2011.

Report of Presbytery's Council February 11, 2011

For Information:

1. Council approved the minutes of the October 11, 2011 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
2. Council received a report summarizing the Presbytery's Financial Statements through calendar year 2011. Mission giving from our churches is far below what was received by the same point in 2010.
3. Council approved the following motion from the Committee on Ministry:
That the Council recommend to the Presbytery of Charlotte, the continuation of the Committee on Ministry as the mechanism responsible for carrying out the function of pastor, counselor, and advisor to teaching elders and congregations as outlined in the second paragraph of G-3.0307 of the New Form of Government.

That the Committee on Ministry continue to be called The Committee on Ministry and that its make-up follow the specifications outlined in G-11.0501b of the 2009-2011 Book of Order.

That the Committee on Ministry continue with the same authority to "act on behalf of the Presbytery" as it was given in the past.
4. Council approved the following recommendations concerning Fellowship Point from the Leadership Development Committee: (made in consultation with Donald Latham)
That the annual salary of \$3500.00 for the caretakers of Fellowship Point be added back into the LDC budget.

That any costs for cleaning supplies, maintenance and repairs at Fellowship Point be taken out of annual user fees (average about \$2500 - \$3000) per year.

That any remaining unspent funds from user fees at the end of the year be moved to a fund to build up a reserve for capital expenditures (roof repair, plumbing, dock repair, etc)
5. Council approved the following recommendation from the Personnel Committee:
That Council approve the appointment of two Council members (to be named later) to serve on a sub-committee which will be tasked with casting the vision of the Council for the Personnel Committee. In addition, this sub-committee will be asked to come alongside Personnel to determine accountability and responsibility of Staff – Council – Personnel. This subcommittee will also meet with the Personnel Committee to review recommendations for future staffing.
6. Council realized the need to have a vice president so that business matters can be handled in a timely manner if the corporation president is not available. Council took the following action:

It was moved and approved that Randy Phillips be elected as vice-president of the Presbytery of Charlotte, Incorporated, with the authority to sign documents enumerated in Article VI, Section 5 of the By-Laws of the Corporation. Including, but not limited to, any and all documents related to the sale of the Corporation's property in Weddington, NC to St. Mark Coptic Church and any and all documents related to the mortgaging of the Corporation's property at Fellowship Point in Iredell County, NC with the Bank of Granite.

7. Council received updates on the initial orientation meetings of Bethlehem, Bethel, Benton Heights, Siler and Huntersville Churches, which have entered the process of mutual discernment for possible dismissal from the denomination. Discernment teams consist of four members from the Presbytery and four from each of these congregations which will meet for no less than one year and no more than two years.

8. Council approved the following Administrative Commission to dissolve Cornerstone Church:
From time to time, it becomes necessary for a presbytery to dissolve a congregation. The power and responsibility of a presbytery to take such action is described in G-3.0301a. Such a request has come to the Presbytery of Charlotte from the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, 401 Pitts School Rd. SW, Concord, NC 28025 in a resolution adopted at a congregational meeting held on Sunday, December 11, 2011, the Reverend Jessica Patchett, moderating.

In accordance with the principles outlined in G-3.0109b, the Presbytery Council, on behalf of the Presbytery of Charlotte, appoints the following persons to serve on an Administrative Commission to carry out the dissolution of the Anywhere Presbyterian Church in conformity with the Book of Order.

TEACHING ELDERS: The Reverend Jay Smith (Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church), to serve as Moderator; The Reverend Tim Bostick (Harrisburg Presbyterian Church), The Reverend Kyle Hite (Rocky River Presbyterian Church); **RULING ELDERS:** Nancy Karner (Concord Covenant Presbyterian Church), Jimmie Melton (Kannapolis Bethpage Presbyterian Church), Aaron Orr (Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church), Ed Callahan (Cornerstone Presbyterian Church) and Paul Black (Bread of Life Christian Ministry, Church Development Committee representative).

The following constitute particular instructions of the Presbytery of Charlotte to the Commission:

- 1) The authority to dissolve Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in a timely manner as it deems appropriate; no later than January 31, 2012.
- 2) The responsibility of working with the Session to conclude the affairs of the congregation, including the transfer of members desiring to unite with other congregations, the arrangement of pastoral care for those shut-in or residing in retirement facilities, the payment of outstanding bills or obligations, and the celebration of the congregation's life and mission in a final worship service.
- 3) The responsibility to list and receive Session records and transmit them to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery who will deposit these documents with the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- 4) The authority to list and receive all real and personal property, financial records, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, equipment, and other assets of the congregation on behalf of the Presbytery of Charlotte, and to arrange for the transfer of the title of the church property to the Presbytery of Charlotte.
- 5) The authority, in consultation with the Session, to distribute items such as furniture, pictures, or equipment to individuals or organizations with strong historical ties to the congregation.
- 6) The authority to assert claim on behalf of the Presbytery to any property of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church not known at this time or property or others assets which may come to the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

Adopted this day the fifteenth of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven.

Recommendations:

1. That the Presbytery of Charlotte approve the overture from Biscoe Presbyterian Church requesting that dismissal to Coastal Carolina Presbytery. *Biscoe's dismissal is contingent upon approval by Coastal Carolina Presbytery.
2. That the Presbytery of Charlotte approve and guarantee the loan to the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for \$373,000.00 for the Korean First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte and that the Korean First Presbyterian Church remit 5% of the annual operating budget in mission giving to the Presbytery of Charlotte for the life of the loan.
3. That the Presbytery of Charlotte endorse The Fellowship Place First Level New Church Development Grant application submission to the General Assembly Mission Development Office for \$25,000.00 for 2012.
4. That Presbytery of Charlotte approve The Fellowship Place for a presbytery-matching grant of \$25,000.00 to match the General Assembly Grant Application. Funding is requested using the following formula: \$21,200.00 from the Presbytery balance sheet (church development fund) and the remainder taken from the Building Healthy Churches Fund.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
REPORT TO PRESBYTERY**

February 11, 2012

1. ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

- A. Approved the attached Supply/Moderator/Parish Associate Report
- B. Approved the following dissolutions/transfers:
 - (1) Mark Carver and Hamlet 1st effective January 15, 2012.
 - (2) Gregory Busby and First United Charlotte effective December 31, 2011
 - (3) Touré Marshall to New Hope Presbytery to accept a call to Grace Church effective October 9, 2011.
 - (4) S. Bradley Clayton and Avondale to Greater Atlanta Presbytery to accept a call to Roswell Church effective October 24, 2011.
- C. Granted Margaret Shaw permission to labor outside the bounds in Western North Carolina Presbytery.
- D. Granted William P. Wood permission to labor outside the bounds in Foothills Presbytery.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That George Slaton, honorably retired, be received from Coastal Carolina.
- B. That Ellen Gardner, minister at large, be received from Eastern Virginia.
- C. That R. Steve Rembert be received as pastor to Walkersville and that the following terms of call be approved:

Salary – \$34,458	Continuing Education - \$1000
Manse Equity - \$1500	Auto reimbursement
Utilities - \$6300	2 Weeks Study Leave
½ Social Security - \$4,036	4 Weeks Vacation
Pension/Medical - \$14,427	

INSTALLATION COMMISSION: (to be submitted)

- D. That Tom Winstead be received pending ordination to serve as an evangelist at-large and that the following commission be approved:

ORDINATION COMMISSION (March 4, 2012; 11 a.m., Sardis): TEACHING ELDERS: Tom Kort, Tom Currie, Tom Labonte, Warren Lesane; RULING ELDERS: Georgia Pressly, Sardis; Todd Hodge, Cooks Memorial; Alex Barnette, Hopewell; Darlena Faulkner, CN Jenkins. Richard Boyce, guest teaching elder, Western North Carolina Presbytery.

- E. That the attached 2012 Minimum Terms of Call reflecting a 3% increase be approved.

- F. That Vern Dodd be granted honorable retirement effective May 29, 2012 with recognition to be held at the May 15, 2012 Presbytery meeting.

3. INFORMATION

Attached are COM recommendations to be voted on at the May 15, 2012 Presbytery meeting that are in response to the New Form of Government.

Recommendations in Response to the New Form of Government

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY FOR APPROVAL:

Presented as information at the February 11 meeting. Will be voted on May 15, 2012

1. That the following three temporary pastoral relationships be established: interim pastor; temporary pastor; and parish associate, with COM granted authority to approve and renew contracts with terms not to exceed 12 months.
2. That a teaching elder employed as a **temporary pastor** is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. However, exceptions to this policy may be granted for temporary pastors to be called to a permanent position in the church in which they are serving by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of Presbytery.
3. That no exceptions may be granted to allow **interim pastors** or **parish associates** to be called to installed positions in the church in which they are serving.
4. That, because it is not included in the New Book of Order, the position of **parish associate** be retained as described in the 2009/11 BOO (G-14.0570): *"A parish associate is a minister who serves in some other validated ministry other than the local parish, or is a member-at-large, or is retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination...The relation shall be established, upon nomination by the pastor, between the parish associate, the session and the presbytery..."*
5. That Presbytery endorses the definition of validated ministry as stated in G-2.0503a of the 2011/2013 Book of Order.
6. That **associate pastors** are not eligible to be the next installed pastor or co-pastor of the congregation they are currently serving.

ACTIONS RELATING TO COM POLICIES TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:

1. Approved that ministers of other denominations outside of the full communion agreement shall not be allowed to serve unless the constitutional conditions in G-2.0607 have been met and approved by COM. Non-PCUSA ministers already serving churches in the Presbytery of Charlotte must begin the process to meet the constitutional conditions within six months of notification of this motion. The present "Certifying Policy" will be reviewed and updated to reflect this action.
2. Approved that COM approval of any ministry other than in a church or traditional ministry (chaplain, college, seminary) requires two readings before the full COM, at least thirty days apart. The candidate or teaching elder shall present the specialized ministry for validation and field questions from COM. If the candidate is already a teaching elder within the Presbytery and leaves a validated ministry, he/she will be granted at-large status.
3. Approved that permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the Presbytery should be granted on a case by case basis based on experience, history and membership standing as the primary criteria. Presumption is that ministers become members of the presbytery where they serve.

PRESBYTERY OF CHARLOTTE

PROPOSED 2012 Minimum Terms of Call for New Full-Time Pastors/Certified Christian Educators

Financial Compensation (Annual): Presbytery minimums for full-time pastors shall be based on Total Salary Package. The proportion of Salary and Housing can be based on the most favorable tax position for the individual.

	(CURRENT)	(PROPOSED)
Cash (Including employee contributions to 403(b)(9) tax-sheltered annuity plans)		
No experience	\$28,222	\$29,069
Add \$200/yr for 1Year	\$28,428	\$29,281
each added year 5 Yrs	\$29,458	\$30,342
10 Yrs	\$30,488	\$31,403
15 Yrs	\$31,518	\$32,464
Housing/Utility & Furnishing Allowance		
Housing/Utilities – Eastern Counties	\$12,669 - \$16,686	\$13,049 - \$17,187
Housing/Utilities – Charlotte Metro	\$15,656 - \$20,703	\$16,126 - \$21,324
TOTAL SALARY PACKAGE = Cash + Housing = EFFECTIVE SALARY		
Benefits & Professional Allowances		
Manse Equity (Optional)*	Strongly Recommended	
1/2 Social Security**		
Board of Pensions (Insurance & Pension)		
Continuing Education (paid by voucher) - \$1000		
Auto Expense (IRS allowable rate is recommended)		
Reasonable Moving Expenses		
Two Weeks Study Leave/Four Weeks Vacation		
Establishment of Church Professional Relations Committee		
Sabbatical Leave during the seventh year of service of at least three months.		

***Manse Equity:** The church may provide an amount into a holding account equal to the equity which would accrue on a comparable house if financed for 30 years. The funds in the Manse Equity account are to be made available to the pastor if 1) the pastor moves from the manse and purchases a primary residence or 2) the pastor leaves the employment of the church. Manse equity is taxable when withdrawn.

**Calculation of Social Security:
 Cash salary + housing/utilities allowance or manse valuation/utilities x 15.3% divided by 2 = Social Security Allowance payable by the church

Annual Adjustment Notes

1. Consult the brochure **Understanding Effective Salary** published by the Board of Pensions for more details on how specific types of payments affect Total Compensation.
www.pensions.org/library/publications/publications/pln-103.pdf
2. Consider cost of living increases, special family needs (education, medical or other extraordinary expenses), the prevailing standards of the community and the merit of the minister's work in determining his or her compensation. The inflation rate/median family income varies by county.
3. The Session should recommend **2012** Compensation for action at a congregational meeting called for the purpose of adjusting the terms of the minister's call. The actions may be based on past performance and future expectations.
4. Continuing Education expenses and travel expenses are paid by voucher upon documentation by the pastor. Unexpended Continuing Education time and money may be accumulated up to three years by mutual agreement between pastor and session. Accrued Continuing Education time and money are forfeited upon dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Unexpended Continuing Education time and money and unexpended travel allowance are not available to a pastor as compensation.

SUPPLY PASTOR/MODERATOR/PARISH ASSOCIATE UPDATE

January 2012

Interim

Bethpage Kannapolis
Charlotte 1st
First United Charlotte
Hickory Grove
Kannapolis 1st
Mallard Creek
Mallard Creek (assoc.)
New Friendship
Statesville Avenue
Stephenson
Trinity
Turner

Name of Supply

Roland Perdue

Kate Murphy

John Wilkerson
Ernest Gardner

William Cockrill

Start/Term.

1/15/12 - 1/13

12/15/11 - 12/14/12

7/5/11 – 7/4/12
8/24/11 – 8/24/12

2/13/12 - 2/12/13

Moderator

Jay Smith
Roland Perdue
Jerry Cannon
Kate Murphy
Jay Smith
John Wilkerson
NA
Belinda Rice
A. C. Canada
Jim Johns
William Cockrill
David Carriker

STATED

Badin
Banks
Biscoe
Bethany
Black's Memorial
Bread of Life
Calvary
Candor
Catawba
Clanton
Cornelius
Covenant Concord
Flow Harris
Hawley Memorial
Indian Hill
Johnston Memorial
Kirkwood
Marshville
Morven
Park Avenue
St. Andrews
Smallwood
Star
St. Paul

Dan Wray
Scott Hilborn

Janet Tyson

Urla Eversley
Reid Montgomery

James Thomas
Carl Dumford
Scott Simpson

Rick Brundin

Debi Madden
Ed Henegar
Leslie Stacks

Tom Labonte
Darryl Gaston (CLP)
Gus Feather
Gloria Bolden

1/08 - 12/08
3/06 - 4/07

12/11 - 12/12

11/6/11 – 11/6/12
1/11 - 3/11

1/10 - 12/10
7/09 - 8/10
5/08 - 4/09

5/09 - 5/10

9/10 - 9/11
1/12 - 12/12
7/1/11 – 6/30/12

7/17/11 – 7/17/12

1/10 - 12/10
2/11 - 2/12

Dan Wray
Scott Hilborn
David Speering
Janet Tyson
Timm High
Urla Eversley
Reid Montgomery
Priscilla Durkin
Admin. Commission
James Thomas
Carl Dumford
Scott Simpson
Tim Bostick
Ken Goins
Rick Brundin
Bob Owens
Debra Madden
Ed Henegar
Leslie Stacks
Dwight Williams
Tom Labonte
Gloria Bolden
Gus Feather
Gloria Bolden

TEMPORARY

Altan
Amity
Beulah
Caldwell
Camden
Cameronian
Cedar Grove
Christ
Concord, 1st United
Covenant Charlotte
Covenant Kannapolis
Derita
Ebenezer
H. O. Graham
Henderson Grove
Marks Creek
Marston
Meadowlake
New Hampton
Pageland 1st
Ridgecrest
Robinson
Second Kannapolis
Selwyn Avenue
Selwyn Avenue
Sugaw Creek
Trinity
Troy
Wadesboro 1st

Betsy Williamson
Chip Tolleson
Veronica Rogers

Wyatt Coley
Aaron Orr (CLP)
Stephen Ratliff
Alex Porter
Jessica Patchett
Sheila Council
Linda Bowman
Billy Grier (CLP)
Dennis Funderburk
Sonya McAuley-Allen
Ken Goins (CLP)

Fred Lowrance, (CLP)

Dick Tubbs (CLP)
Larry Pittman
Timm High
Lou Pfeiffer (CLP)
Lori Raible
Mary Bowman
Eulando Henton
D. C. Horne (Assoc.)
David Speering
Leslie Stacks

1/1/12 -12/31/12
1/11 - 12/11
8/8/11 – 8/7/12

7/11 - 6/12
2/09 –12/10
10/1/11 - 9/30/12

1/2/12 - 1/1/13
9/7/11 - 9/1/12
2/10 - 8/10
3/10 - 3/11
8/13/11 - 8/13/12
9/1/11 - 9/1/12
1/12 - 1/13

9/10 - 9/11
2/11 - 1/12
11/1/11 - 10/31/12
5/11 - 4/12
6/1/11 - 5/30/12
9/11/11 – 9/11/12
10/1/11 - 9/30/13
5/11 - 4/12
1/1/12- 12/31/12
7/1/11 – 6/30/12

Janet Tyson
Betsy Williamson
Chip Tolleson
NA
Ken Goins
Wyatt Coley
Aaron Orr
Stephen Ratliff
Alex Porter
NA
Sheila Council
Linda Bowman
Billy Grier
Dennis Funderburk
Sonya McAuley-Allen
Ken Goins
Neal Watkins
Fred Lowrance
A. W. Canada
Dick Tubbs
Larry Pittman
Timm High
Lou Pfeiffer
NA
NA
Eulando Henton
NA
David Speering
Leslie Stacks

PARISH ASSOCIATES

<u>Church</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Non-Paid</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u>Non-Retired</u>
Avondale	Jane Summey-Mullennix	X			X
Caldwell Memorial	Diane Mowery		X		X
Concord 1st	Ken Craig	X		X	
Newell	Amy Busiek	X			X
Poplar Tent	Bob Palisin		X	X	
Steele Creek	Bey Grunder		X	X	
Westminster	Grady Moseley		X		X

R. STEVE REMBERT
Faith Journey

1953 I was born and baptized into a Presbyterian family and church in Dallas, Texas. I was nurtured and fed in Sunday School and Church. And yet, there came a time in my later high school days when I began to question and doubt the Christian faith. That continued as a pre-med student in college. Unfortunately, I did not receive answers in the church, only puzzled looks that said, "You're not supposed to question like that." I did not run away like a wild, prodigal son. I more drifted away in my head and heart.

That summer after college I went to travel around Europe for 2 months by train with my best friend. At the end of that trip in the fall, I spent 4 months at L'Abri, a Christian community and study center in Switzerland begun by a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Frances Schaeffer. I was able to ask questions there and find answers. It was there at the age of 21 that I committed my life to Christ. From that experience I think I have learned to be sensitive to those who are struggling with faith questions.

On returning to the U.S., I worked at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas (since I had wanted to be a doctor). But, as I began working as a volunteer with the Senior High youth in my home church, I sensed God moving in my life in a different direction from medicine. I wanted to help people in a different way. I traveled 10,000 miles on a Greyhound bus pass to visit seminaries (and friends). I worked another year and a half in Dallas in a business office before finally moving to Chicago to attend Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. During that time I also ministered as an intern for 2 1/2 years in a local Presbyterian Church. I still hear from some of the young people I worked with there, which has given me a deep appreciation of the value of working with youth who are at such a critical time in their development. After receiving a Master of Divinity degree (with emphasis in Christian Education) in 1980, I moved to a town just south of Atlanta, Georgia, where I was ordained as an associate minister of education and youth. My first year there I also took some extra classes at Columbia Theological Seminary (since I had not graduated from a Presbyterian seminary). This was a church in a town of phenomenal growth. People came if you just kept the doors open and had decent worship and education.

While there I met Betsy Pope. We were married in 1984. Seven weeks later we adopted 2 brothers from El Salvador, Michael and Jonathan. A year later we birthed Susan. And 2 1/2 years after that we had Jennifer. But that is running ahead in the story! In 1986 we moved to 2 small yoked churches in northwest Louisiana cotton farming area. These were small, family oriented churches in an area of declining growth where we felt like we had to work hard just to hold our own.

Both Betsy and I had an interest in World Missions (she had even taught missionary children in Korea). We applied to our PCUSA Board of World Missions and were accepted to serve in Kinshasa, Zaire (Congo) running a hostel for overseas visitors and for 16 teenage children of missionaries. In the fall of 1991 we were evacuated after an uprising. Africa was an entirely different level of learning to trust God, but we loved our years there and they certainly expanded our vision of the world. For the next 8 months after returning, we lived in missionary housing next to Columbia Seminary, speaking to churches across the South about missions. This was exciting to get to taste so many different flavors of churches (not to mention tasting so many different pot-lock suppers!). In June of 1992 we went back into the pastoral ministry in Arkansas. We saw some very positive growth, both numerically and spiritually in a church that was good, but needed some revitalizing.

After 9 years in Arkansas, we moved to Erwin, Tennessee, in 2001. We have enjoyed our years here in a small town on the Appalachian Trail, just north of Asheville, NC.

Five years ago we also adopted Alex, a teenage boy from an orphanage in Ukraine.

Our 2 other sons now work as a lifeguard at a YMCA and as a nurse in a nursing home.

Our 2 daughters are both teachers, one near Fayetteville, NC, and the other in Columbia, SC.

Faith Statement

I believe in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I enjoy the Father and this world He created and put us in. I am amazed by the Son who would come to earth as the baby Jesus, show us how to live and love, and be willing to die for our sins as the Christ, the Messiah, then be raised from the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit who blows as the wind if we will must put up the sails of our life's boat and allow the Spirit to blow our lives in whatever direction God chooses. That is part of the excitement of living the Christian life and trying to make Jesus the Lord of all that we do, say, and think.

I believe in the Bible as the written Word of God. I need to read it more like I believe.

I believe in prayer as communication with our loving God who cares about each one of us personally. I need to take more time to be nurtured in that relationship.

I believe in evangelism and missions and the need for each individual to share their faith with those they come in contact with as well as helping others go share where we cannot. And thus may God use us to draw other people to Himself.

George R. Slaton Statement of Faith

The God of my Christian faith is the one and true God who comes to us and seeks covenant with us.

God comes to us in the person and saving work of Jesus Christ, “who loved me and gave himself for me.” In Christ, God walks with us and calls us to be his faithful disciples. The Holy Spirit enables us by grace to come to faith and, through its abiding presence and activity in our living, nurtures us and enables us to follow Christ with deepening faith.

Our human nature and condition render us unable to live faithfully by our own efforts. Through the covenant of grace alone, we are called, justified, adopted as God’s own children, sanctified and saved.

God reveals himself through Holy Scripture. His Holy Spirit inspires and enables our understanding of Scripture and so strengthens our life in Christ.

The Church is the Body of Christ. Through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, we are shepherded and sustained in serving Christ. Through the Church, we have needful fellowship and communion with other Christians and we participate in God’s loving and reconciling work in the world.

I marvel at God’s faithfulness to me throughout my life, as I’ve recognized, usually in retrospect, his guiding hand in my formative years, my education, my teachers and mentors, my choices and struggles. In my ministry as a pastoral counselor, I’ve seen God accomplish what neither I nor my clients could have done on our own. The experiences of living, as person and pastor, continue to affirm and confirm my faith in this God who is “My only trust and Saviour of my heart.”

Ellen Campbell Gardner Statement of Faith

In life and in death I belong to God. I believe that from before the beginning of time God predestined and purposed my life. That knowledge gives each day, hour and minute of my life meaning and shape. I believe that God created all things, even me, to fit God's purpose.

In and through Scripture, the true Word of God, God speaks, through events in the past, through prophets, kings, psalmist, Jesus Christ and his apostles, even through common people. Remarkably, even today, God is still speaking to us in the Word of God by God's Spirit. Scripture's authority is sufficient in and of its self; it does not gain authority and truth or lose it by human opinion or preference. Scripture then is the surest guide to knowing God and as a result, knowing ourselves. Scripture is the surest means of living in harmony with God's will for our lives.

I believe in the Trinity, God the Father/Creator, God the Son/Redeemer and God the Holy Spirit/Sustainer. In these I can know who God is. As the Creator, all things seen and unseen were made. God created all time, substance and life, weaving them into the beauty that is this world. Yet sadly, in the course of time, all God created as good, experienced a fall from its created order. Sin and separation from God, our heavenly Father, was the result of this fall and all of creation has experienced the pain of sin's curse.

Yet God would not allow this alienation to stand. Philippians chapter two tells us that Jesus Christ, "Thou he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking on the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.... He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross." I believe that it is through this act of unsurpassed, obedient love that I, and all of creation, are cleansed and made holy, united with our Creator once more.

I am overwhelmed by Christ's act of loving obedience to His Father, that while I was yet dead to sin, Christ died for me. Yet it is his resurrection, and his triumph over death, forever, that now I stand redeemed. I cannot earn my salvation. It is an act of grace, signaling that sin and death have lost their threat. The words of the hymn, Amazing Grace describe my hope. "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the Sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Redeemed, and now united with our heavenly Father, through Christ's ascension, all of creation, in time, is being restored to its true nature. It is for the purpose of living and sharing this unfolding reality that Christ's believers, His Church, have been called and purposed. Joining members of the Church from all times and place his people are sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit bringing the love and living message of Jesus Christ everywhere and to everyone they meet. To make that possible, the Sustainer, the Holy Spirit, fills each Christian with Christ's power to love the lovable and unlovable, to have faith when "rational thinking" tells us not to, and hope when there is no reason for hope.

Christ instituted two sacraments as signs and seals of our union with God. These sacraments are Baptism and Lord's Supper. Baptism is our adoption into the family of God. It is in this event that the Holy Spirit pronounces over her cleansing waters that we are holy and acceptable, engrafted as God's children in whom God is well pleased. Lord's Supper is the joyous feast of the people of God. It unites across time and space all believers who have gone before, live today and are yet unborn. In the Supper we gather and are nourished spiritually unto life eternal so that Christ lives in us and we live in him. Receiving him then, by true faith, he becomes our life and lifts us up, into communion with God our Father, making true what we should justly only dare to believe, that truly in life and in death we belong to God.



**Directions to
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC 28078
Celebrating 250 Years!!
www.hopewellpresbyterian.com**

From Albemarle, Troy, Candor, Biscoe Via NC 24/27

From NC 24/27 W - Continue onto US-74 W
Take the I-277 N/N Carolina 16 S exit toward US-74 W
Merge onto N Carolina 16 N/I-277 N
Take exit 5A to merge onto I-77 N/US-21 N toward Statesville
Continue to follow I-77 N
Take exit 16B for Sunset Rd W
Merge onto Sunset Rd
Turn right onto Beatties Ford Rd
Hopewell Church will be on the right

From Monroe, Indian Trail Matthews Via US-74 West

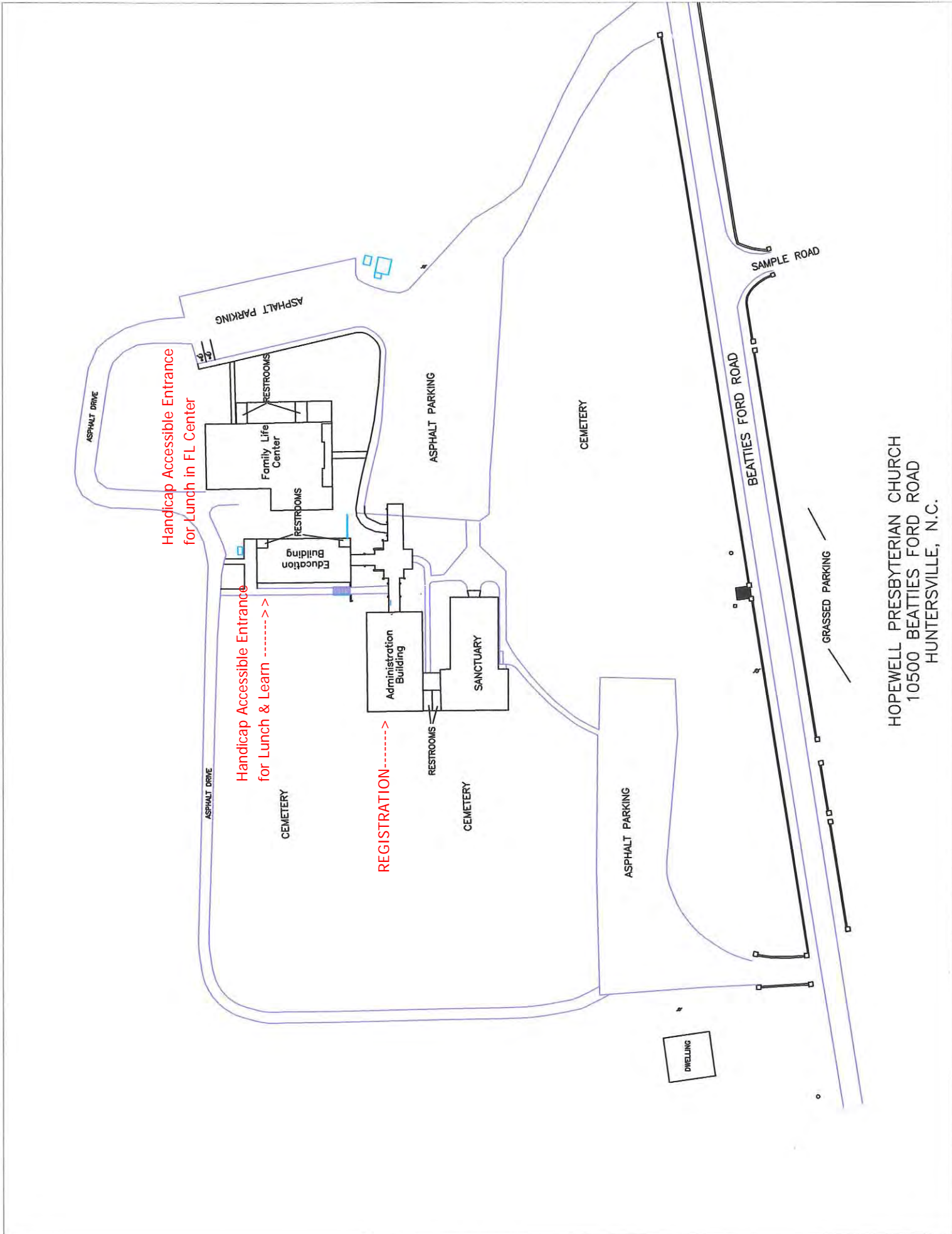
From US-74 W
Take the I-277 N/N Carolina 16 S exit toward US-74 W
Merge onto N Carolina 16 N/I-277 N
Take exit 5A to merge onto I-77 N/US-21 N toward Statesville
Continue to follow I-77 N
Take exit 16B for Sunset Rd W
Merge onto Sunset Rd
Turn right onto Beatties Ford Rd
Hopewell Church will be on the right

From Concord, Kannapolis, North Charlotte Via I-85 South

Take exit 45B for N Carolina 24 West WT Harris Blvd
Turn left onto Mt Holly-Huntersville Rd
Turn right onto Beatties Ford Rd
Hopewell Church will be on the right

From Huntersville, Cornelius, Davidson Via I-77 South

From I-77 S/US-21 S toward Charlotte
Continue to follow I-77 S
Take exit 23 for Gilead Rd toward Huntersville
Turn right onto Gilead Rd
Turn left onto McCoy Rd
Turn right onto Hambright Rd
Turn left onto Beatties Ford Rd
Hopewell will be on the left
Destination will be on the left



HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 10500 BEATTIES FORD ROAD
 HUNTERSVILLE, N.C.